

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

JOHN FRANCIS, §
#2253451, §
PLAINTIFF, §
§
V. § **CIVIL CASE NO. 3:24-CV-534-B-BK**
§
JOHN DOE, §
DEFENDANT. §

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)](#) and *Special Order 3*, this *pro se* civil action was referred to the United States magistrate judge for case management, including the issuance of findings and a recommended disposition where appropriate. Upon review of the relevant pleadings and applicable law, the complaint should be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** because venue is not proper in this district.

On February 26, 2024, Plaintiff John Francis, a Texas state prisoner, filed a *pro se* pleading that is largely nonsensical and difficult to decipher. [Doc. 3 at 1](#). Plaintiff seemingly intends to challenge his conditions of confinement at the Powledge Unit, where he is now confined. [Doc. 3 at 1](#). He provides a chronological list of events that occurred on February 8 and 9, 2024. [Doc. 3 at 1](#). In February 2024, Plaintiff mailed to the Court six other lists of events with *pro se* letters seeking to file a new civil rights action.

Venue in a civil case is governed by 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b), which aims to place lawsuits in the judicial district most connected to the parties or the events giving rise to the action.

Section 1331(b) provides that a civil action may be brought in:

(1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located;

(2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or

(3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.

[28 U.S.C. § 1391\(b\)](#).

None of the foregoing venue provisions apply here. Based on Plaintiff's allegations, the events giving rise to his claims occurred at the Powledge Unit in Palestine, Texas (Anderson County), within the jurisdictional boundaries of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Tyler Division. [28 U.S.C. § 124\(c\)\(1\)](#). Importantly, Plaintiff does not assert that any acts or omissions occurred within the geographical boundaries of the Northern District of Texas. Thus, venue is not proper in this Court.

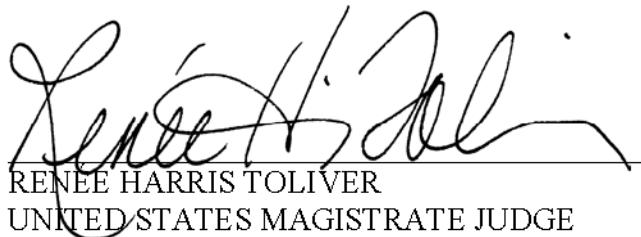
When venue is not proper, a district court has the authority to dismiss the case or transfer it in the interest of justice to any district or division in which the action could have been brought. [28 U.S.C. § 1406\(a\)](#) ("The district court of a district in which is filed a case laying venue in the wrong division or district shall dismiss, or if it be in the interest of justice, transfer such case to any district or division in which it could have been brought."). See *Caldwell v. Palmetto State Savings Bank of South Carolina*, 811 F.2d 916, 919 (5th Cir. 1987) (concluding the district court has broad discretion in determining whether to dismiss or transfer a case in the interest of justice).

Here, the Court concludes that the interests of justice do not support the transfer of this case to the appropriate district, considering: (1) the relative infancy of the case; (2) the

geographical proximity of the events; (3) the failure of the construed complaint to comply with the pleading requirements of [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8\(a\)](#); and (4) Plaintiff's recent filing spree. Thus, the Court should instead exercise its broad discretion to dismiss the complaint without prejudice to it being filed in the Eastern District of Texas.

Accordingly, Plaintiff's complaint should be **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** as venue is improperly laid in this Court. *See 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).*¹

SO RECOMMENDED on March 11, 2024.



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); FED. R. CIV. P. 72(b).* An objection must identify the finding or recommendation to which objection is made, the basis for the objection, and the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass'n, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996), modified by statute on other grounds, 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)* (extending the time to file objections to 14 days).

¹ The forms pleadings for filing a civil rights action (complaint and motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*) are available in the law library at the prison unit where Plaintiff is confined.